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BOLIVIA

INTERIOR MINISTER ON ALTMANN CASE, OTHER ISSUES

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[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 21 Sep--Bolivian Interior Minister Col Mario Adelt Zamora today expressed in a statement published by the dailies CORREIO DA MANHA and ULTIMA HORA (of the same newspaper chain) that the Altmann case in his country will be decided by the Bolivian Supreme Court, which has the power to decide whatever it may deem necessary, "although" many years may have passed and the government may consider the crimes of the former Nazi SS commander in Lyon as established. He added: Anyway, so far France has not made a formal extradition request as we only received a verbal request through the French Embassy in La Paz.

The Bolivian interior minister, who represents his country in the second Spanish-Luso-American and Philippines conference of justice ministers, which recently opened in Brasilia with the participation of 18 delegations, yesterday told reporters in the Brazilian capital that he will present to the conference a draft for multinational legislation designed to punish refugee terrorists and enable their automatic extradition.

Stressing the excellent relations between Brazil and Bolivia, Col Mario Adelt Zamora pointed out that the two nations have identical objectives: the people's happiness, sovereignty, order and open struggle against communism and anything illegal. He said the claims that Banzer's government is a fascist, rightwing or gorilla regime are mere communist speculation.

According to the minister, the armed forces of his country do not intervene in its political life, limiting themselves to the task of cementing the national aspirations. He explained that the political support of the government resides in the Nationalist Popular Front, which expresses the will of the majorities.

He said that 55 percent of the Bolivian population consists of peasants who have chosen Colonel Banzer as their unquestionable leader. He maintained that the government has the support of the students; that the universities were closed for 1 year, since last October, and will be reopened early next month to start the educational reform. After explaining that before their closing, the universities were a small state within the Bolivian state, an alien territory where subversive plots were designed, the minister said that now, with the support of our youths, we shall have a stable and firm government for a long time.

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